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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 6 July 1948

SUBJECT Reactions of Yugoslav Diplomatic
Officials to Cominform Declaration

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SOURCE

There follows the initial reactions of certain Yugoslav diplomatic officers to
the recent Cominform declaration against Marshal Tito.

1. A prominent Yugoslav diplomat stated [] that the [] "reactionary
press" was exploiting the Yugoslav events for the propaganda value and ex-
aggerating the true meaning of the declaration and the probable outcome of
the entire affair. According to this diplomat, nothing catastrophic will
occur in Yugoslavia. Tito will be able to dominate the internal situation
of his country and will follow a policy of approaching the other Balkan
nations which could even result in a Balkan Federation now so repugnant to
the Soviet Union. The prime reason for the negative Soviet attitude lies
in the knowledge that such a Federation, even in the terms of long-range
planning, could have only the objective of Constantinople. As this ob-
jective is also the secular aim of Moscow, the Soviet Union is opposing with
all its means any fusion of sixty million Balkan peoples who would be capable
of counterbalancing Soviet influence and military power.

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2. The Yugoslav military personnel [] showed no
signs of preoccupation or nervousness. They indicated that they were sure
Tito would succeed in controlling the foreign and domestic problems of Yugo-
slavia. These persons believed that the Soviet took this step solely be-
cause Tito did not want a fifth column and had arrested and tried certain
Communists devoted to Moscow. These arrested Communists had carried out
espionage and "political sabotage" for the Soviet Union in Yugoslavia.
One prominent Yugoslav military officer stated [] that since Tito had
rid himself of Soviet agents who had assailed him for the past years, Tito
can now finally carry out his foreign policy plan designed to bring Yugoslavia
into the predominant position in the Balkans. This officer declared that
Yugoslavia would never bind herself politically or economically with the United
States as such a move would destroy Yugoslav plans for complete independence,
the course on which she has now embarked.

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